

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated March 29, 2004 in which the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1- 31 as being anticipated by Downs et al (US Patent No. 6,249,836) under 35USC §102(e). The Examiner further objects to the drawings and Abstract for formality and language deficiencies. In addition, claims 16 and 31 are also objected/rejected for language deficiencies.

Applicants have amended Figure 1 to meet the requirements of 37CFR §1.84(p)(5). In particular, reference numbers 122-146, which are not mentioned in the Specification, are replaced with 104-108, respectively. In addition, a legend "Prior Art" is added in Figure 1. A proposed Figure 1 is enclosed with the correction shown in red for approval, and a corrected Figure 1 is also enclosed for replacement upon approval. No new matter is believed to have been introduced.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's objections to the drawings under 37CFR §1.94(p)(4). In particular, 37 CFR §1.94(p)(4) reads "The same part of an invention appearing in more than one view of the drawing must always be designated by the same reference character ..." (underlining added). It is clear that 37 CFR §1.94(p)(4) regulates how to designate the same part in plural views, while the reference characters 110-140, 206-211, 104-108, 221-226, 231-236 designate components in the same view. Therefore, the objections to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.94(p)(4) are believed improper, and are thus respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Applicants have also amended the Abstract to overcome the deficiencies as pointed out by the Examiner.

As to the rejections to the claims, Applicants have amended the claims to perfect the claim language, which is believed to have overcome the language deficiencies in the claims. New dependent claims 32-38 are added. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35USC §102(e) by the Examiner, as explained in detail below.

First of all, Applicants believe that a brief explanation of the present invention will be helpful in understanding the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention as defined in the claims over the prior art. The present invention discloses a novel method for a service provider to provide services to multiple independent entities. In particular, as taught by the present invention, services that require the service provider to trust the entities are separated from services that require the entities to trust the service provider, as recited in the same or similar language in all independent claims 1, 8, 11, 14, 19, 22 and 27. With the teaching of the present invention, the entities be provided with services may not affect one another through the service provider, and therefore, the separation and security issue between independent entities is solved.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion of the Examiner that the present invention with the above underlined distinguishing feature has been anticipated by Downs et al (US Patent No. 6,249,836). Downs discloses a method and apparatus for providing remote and distributed processing of a task. Specifically, as shown in Figure 2, a resource allocator 14 is provided to help the resource requestor 12 to find an available resource provider 16. In other words, Downs provides a “brokerage” service between the task requesters and the resource providers who can process the tasks. However, Downs does not teach to separate services into two categories, i.e., the services that require the service provider to trust the clients and the services that require the clients to trust the service provider, as taught in the present invention. In fact, Downs does not discuss anything about trust between the resource allocator 14 (read as “service provider”) and its customers (either the resource requester 12 or the resource providers 16). Apparently, the Examiner has misinterpreted the term “trust” with its general meaning. Applicants respectfully disagree with such misinterpretation, since the term “trust” has clear definition in the art of computer science, such as defined by Micorsoft Corporation:

“TRUST RELATIONSHIP: A trust relationship allows users and global

groups from another user account database to be used. It is a link between domains that enables pass-through authentication, in which a trusting domain honors the logon authentications of a trusted domain. With trust relationships, a user who has only one user account in one domain can potentially access the entire network. User accounts and global groups defined in a trusted domain can be given rights and resource permissions in a trusting domain, even though those accounts do not exist in the trusting domain's directory database.” (see page 5, lines 12-22 of the Specification)

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as defined in independent claims 1, 8, 11, 14, 19, 22 and 27 are not anticipated by Downs under 35USC §102(e). Thus, independent claims 1, 8, 11, 14, 19, 22 and 27 are patentable.

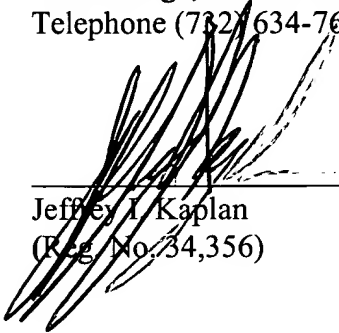
At least for the same reasons, dependent claims 207, 9-10, 12-13, 15-18, 23-26 and 28-38 are also patentable as each of them includes all the limitations of one of the independent claims. In particular, newly added dependent claims 32-38 further define a distinguishing feature that the services requiring the independent entities to trust the service provider do not trust the services requiring the service provider to trust the independent entities, which cannot be found anywhere in Downs. Therefore, the patentability of dependent claims 32-38 is further strengthened.

Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the above remarks and amendments. The Examiner is authorized to deduct additional fees believed due from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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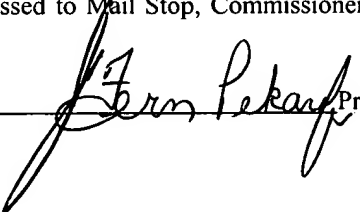
Dated: June 30, 2004



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 30, 2004

Dated June 30, 2004 Signed  Print Name Fern Pekarofski